

# EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

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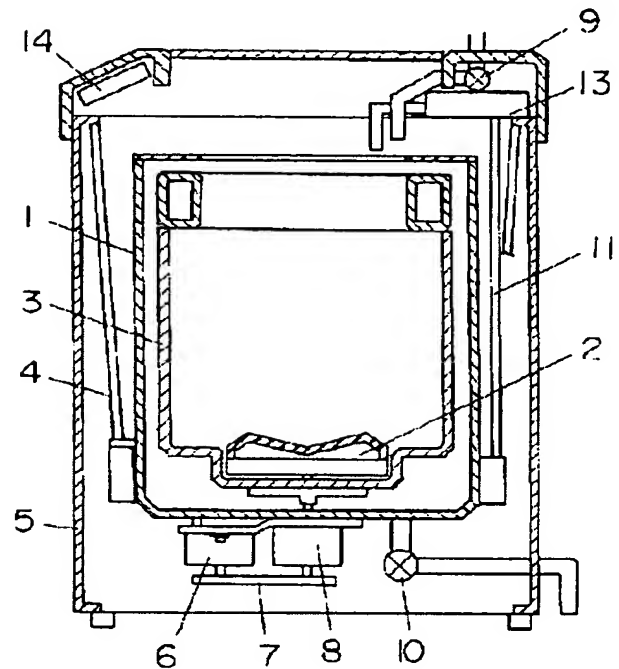
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TITLE : WASHING MACHINE

3 --- 洗濯兼脱水槽  
9 --- 給水弁(給水手段)  
13 --- 蒸気供給装置(蒸気供給手段)  
14 --- 制御装置(制御手段)



ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To apply steam to laundry before a washing process for decomposing stubborn sticking dirt such as fatty dirt and a stain and removing the decomposed dirt in the following washing process in a washing machine washing the laundry in a washing and spin-drying drum.

SOLUTION: Operation of a steam supplying device 13 supplying steam into the washing and spin-drying drum 3, a water supply valve 9 supplying water into the washing and spin-drying drum 3, and the like is controlled by means of a controller 14. By means of the controller 14, a steam supplying process for supplying steam to the laundry inside the washing and spin-drying drum 3 by the steam-supplying device 13 is carried out, and after the steam supplying process, water is supplied to a predetermined water level by means of the water supply valve 9.

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